

PHILADELPHIA LOTTERY.

1747.

Numb. *642A.*

THE Beater of this TICKET, in Case it be drawn a *Prize*, is entitled to the Prize so drawn, provided it be demanded within Three Months after the Drawing is finished.

F

W. M. Cogan

Permanent Want

OLD AMERICAN
LOTTERY TICKETS

Philip G. Nordell
R. D. 1, Ambler, Pa.
Tel. Mitchell 6-6190

PHILIP G. NORDELL

R. D. 1 AMBLER, PENNSYLVANIA

June 6, 1959

Mr. Eric P. Newman
315 Washington Ave.
St. Louis, Mo.

Dear Mr. Newman:

For years I was a friend of the Boyds, knew them well, and after Fred died, Helen sold me his lottery collection. I use their first names because I have a feeling, though I do not know, that you also knew them well. Your name sounds strangely familiar to me, though I don't think either of them ever mentioned you to me. A Mrs. James E. Sullivan who had some tickets up in Massachusetts a few years ago told me two weeks ago she believes you are the person who wrote to her about them, in which I believe it could only have happened this way: I gave up trying to buy the tickets and turned her name over to Fred, and since I know Fred often wanted others to correspond for him, possibly he got you to do this. Since I am the only one she had ever written to about the tickets previously, I feel this must be the answer. Well, this will serve as an introduction.

Do you collect tickets? Or do you collect currency? Fred liked to swap, and I'm wondering if he swapped currency with you for tickets. I have been working on a history of lotteries for many years, which is nearly completed, and incidentally started collecting tickets. Since there were no collectors, evidently, when I started, I was able to build up the finest collection of them there is, long before I bought Fred's.

Some day I hope to get out a checklist of tickets with several locations when possible of each, and this is why I am writing now. Fred had a big sheet of University of Maryland Lottery tickets, each one elaborately and differently engraved. Fred knew I was frankly envious of him for having them and a year later he said he obtained a second sheet of them from St. Louis, which he swapped with me for other tickets. And what interests me is his saying that his source told him these were the only two sheets available with no more located where they came from. Since Fred has gone, are you willing or can you tell me more about this? Were they the only two sheets? If more and owned by an institution, would you let me know who? I'm wondering now they ever got out to St. Louis. Are there other tickets there? I'd certainly like to buy a Franklin Hall Road Lottery ticket (Missouri) of 1833 or earlier. There is one of Class 2 at the Missouri Hist. Soc. but years ago they had no duplicate.

It seems silly to enclose a stamp, but in such instances as this it seems the thing to do. Sincerely,

Philip G. Nordell

June 11, 1959

Mr. Philip G. Nordell
R.D. 1
Ambler, Pennsylvania

Dear Mr. Nordell:

Your letter of June 6, 1959 was very welcome and you are indeed fortunate that you were able to acquire Fred's lottery tickets.

I, too, have been very friendly with them for many years.

I collect American coins and currency and do a considerable amount of research and writing with respect to them. Fred had loaned me sections of his collection which were most helpful in connection with the books and articles I wrote. I am hopeful that I will acquire certain sections of Fred's collection and I believe that will come about.

I do not collect lottery tickets but attempted to obtain for Fred anything that I could in that field. I did write Mrs. Sullivan in an effort to be helpful to Fred.

I believe that your book on the history of lotteries will be most welcome and I hope it is thoroughly illustrated.

The sheet of University of Maryland lottery tickets I obtained from a local collector in St. Louis, for Fred, by exchanging some currency of Fred's for these tickets. This ticket, in turn, came out of a general accumulation of odds and ends and so far as I know was the only one in the group.

I have been reading early American newspapers off and on and particularly during this last month and, as you know, there are an enormous amount of lottery items in them. I obtain the microfilm of the newspapers on inter-library loan.

I did give Fred my specimens of the United States lottery of 1776 and if, perchance, you now have duplicates of the different classes of these items I would very much like to obtain them in some manner. I need them to go with my collection of Continental currency.

Page 2

June 11, 1959

Mr. Philip G. Nordell

It was very nice hearing from you and I will be glad to help you in any way I can.

Cordially yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb

Philip G. Nordell

R. D. I, Ambler, Pennsylvania

June 27, 1959

Mr. Eric P. Newman
Edison Brothers Stores Inc.
St. Louis 2, Mo.

Dear Mr. Newman:

Thanks a lot for your interesting and much appreciated letter. I hope very much you will be able to acquire the sections of Fred's currency collection you want. I wish I might be able to do something helpful in this matter. Please keep this entirely confidential, but as you might well imagine, there are others who at least have suggested to Helen ideas for its disposal. But if she had already made up her mind, she never gave any indication she had come to a decision.

I have exchanged duplicate tickets with numerous institutions, including several of the State historical societies, colleges and the Library of Congress. Very rarely will they sell duplicates, but they are glad to exchange them. They still have some tickets I want and I have been waiting for years to get duplicate tickets of equivalent interest and importance for them. While several of them do not limit their acquisitions to their own States, others do, which of course makes it more difficult for me. However, it is an easy matter to talk them into taking United States Lottery tickets. At the same time, since these tickets are not excessively rare, or even rare as lottery tickets go, I am trying to build up reconstructed strips of

Philip G. NordellR. D. I, Ambler, Pennsylvania

tickets in each class and also am trying to get in each class a ticket signed by each of the managers in that class. So you see, numerous tickets in this lottery have gone into my permanent collection. This will explain why at present I would rather not sell any of these tickets. But reconstructing strips is one of my pastimes which is quickly shelved if and when new tickets come along. All of which means that if and when you get hold of other tickets you don't want, and if I can use them, even for trading, then I shall certainly give you first shot at the U.S. tickets, of which I imagine you are merely hunting for one in each class. —I have just removed a ticket in Class 1 and another in Class 3 from envelopes for future trades and have put in a new one with your name, and if the bait is alluring, will probably be glad enough to take out tickets from Classes 2 and 4 from my permanent collection.

I see you are ^{reading} old papers. I began my research back in 1943 and spent more than a year in law libraries alone, going through every issue of session laws for a century of every colony and State, paragraph by paragraph to get authorizations, since many were concealed in acts for other purposes and are not mentioned in the indexes. But this took care only of the authorized lotteries, or rather their authorizations. Then I had to spend years and years going through tens and tens of thousands of papers hunting for the drawings of the above and also, very important, the hundreds of important (and all) lotteries that were run without legislative authorization. This is why my research took more than a dozen years before I even started to write the book,

for of course there are altogether many thousands of manuscripts pertaining to lotteries in the big eastern institutions, as for example, the minutes of the trustees of colleges and cities that ran lotteries. Now my trouble is that I have such an enormous mass of interesting information that I can't possibly use more than a very little bit of it except for the purpose of making generalizations, and thus I have no room for any amount of interesting detail. For example, almost nothing has been correctly written on the United States Lottery. Even some of the best historians have written as if there were two or three lotteries, apart from classes, and it has frequently been said it was not drawn. I have discovered hidden away in an old library the letter book of the managers. Then, a dozen years ago I located a descendant of one of the managers who had unique information concerning the lottery preserved in a batch of letters written to his ancestor manager. Fortunately I took copious excerpts from them. Two years ago he died and his widow has never been able to locate the letters, no library among those he frequented or to whom he presented material ever received them and they really seem to be lost. And then I have some unique information. So all in all this lottery should receive full treatment, which I proceeded to do, but it will cover 40 pages, and since I still have so much to write about, with 800 pages already written, the meat axe will have to be applied and this chapter may have to be reduced to less than half.

Good luck. I'm sure we'll write some more. By the way, I see "Burt's Retail Shoe Stores" listed at

Mr. Eric P. Newman

4

1

Philip G. Nordell

R. D. I, Ambler, Pennsylvania

the bottom of your first sheet. When I was a boy and lived in a Boston suburb, across the street lived E. W. Burt, the originator of the Ground Gripper E. W. Burt shoes, an old man with a white beard, and his daughter, a good friend of my mother's, and his son, Ned Burt, who took over the business. If he (the son) were living now, he'd be close to 80. I have not seen or heard of these Burt shoe stores for many years and am wondering if your company absorbed them or if they were first absorbed by someone else.

It is amusing, but not surprising, that Fred got you to write to Mrs. Sullivan. He had a strange reluctance, it seemed to me at times, about going after tickets such as hers directly. It is a wonder I ever got them. I gave up and handed her name and address to Fred. Then one day when I was away she and her husband stopped at our house, and while he stayed outside in the car smoking two or three cigars and wondering what the hell she could be doing in the house for so long, she and my wife struck up one of those rare friendships, and now the four of us are the best of friends.

Sincerely,

Philip G. Nordell

October 5, 1959

Mr. Phillip G. Nordell
R.D.1
Ambler, Penna.

Dear Mr. Nordell:

I am enclosing an excerpt concerning lotteries
which you may not have.

I would be most anxious if you would sell me
some of the Continental Congress lottery tickets
of 1776. I am sure you have duplicates and
probably some that I let Fred have because he
was so nice to me.

See what you could find, would you?

Cordially,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb

October 17, 1959

Mr. Eric P. Newman
400 Washington Ave.
St. Louis 2, Mo.

Dear Mr. Newman:

Thanks for your enclosure and for your letter. I really did tell you the truth regarding the United States Lottery tickets in my last letter. Whenever I feel there is a chance of completing a reconstructed strip I try to do so, which is what I am doing in all classes of this lottery except Class 3. I am also trying to complete sets of tickets signed by the persons who were managers of each class. This is the most important lottery every run in the U. S. I have a 40-p. chapter on it. As hard up as I am for cash to spend on collecting, I simply do not want to break up these partly completed strips as this time for cash. But as I told you, when it comes to exchanging any for tickets of equal importance, to me that is, I wouldn't hesitate a minute. Fred got most of his tickets from numismatists. I have no contact with them at all except through you. Surely you will hear of other lottery tickets. But you know of course I have all the common tickets. Also, I am convinced that the present prices of lottery tickets are ridiculously too low, mainly nominal owing to lack of interest, but if and when my book is completed, with reproductions of scores of tickets, I feel it might do to tickets what Harry Peters' book on Currier and Ives lithographs did to them- send them skyrocketing. For this reason I don't like to sell any tickets now, but as I say, I trade. In fact I traded off two or three duplicates of other U.S. classes before I ever wrote to you.

I'm sure you are still convinced I'm a stinker, but all the same I'm sending the enclosed as a gift. While this ticket in Class 3 is the commonest of all, signed but unnumbered, not issued, it is the rarest with the number. I have several duplicates of this one alone, but the enclosed is the best, I swear.

Sincerely,



October 21, 1959

Mr. Philip G. Nordell
R.D. 1
Ambler, Pennsylvania

Dear Mr.Nordell:

Thank you very much for the lottery ticket.

I will certainly be glad to keep my eyes open
for lottery tickets for you but I do not know
which are common and which are not.

I am sure our paths will cross again and, until
that time, accept my kindest personal regards.

Sincerely,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb